

ISSUE #17

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BAAM Boston Anti-Authoritarian Movement

A General Anarchist Union in the Boston Area

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Photo by [unclear]
an Horn

STAAC 7 Charges Dropped for Lack of Evidence

from Twin Cities Indymedia

After three days of police testimony in the first trial stemming from arrests at the Republican National Convention last year, a Ramsey County Judge threw out all charges declaring that insufficient evidence had been presented to support any of the charges. The "STAAC 7", some of whom are BAAM and NEAN (Northeast Anarchist Network) members, were arrested on September 1, 2008 as part of a mass arrest at 6th St. and Wall St., and were accused of blocking an intersection five blocks away. They were charged with Obstructing Legal Process, Disorderly Conduct, Unlawful Assembly, and Blocking Traffic.

The seven defendants were all from the northeast: Katt Tolman, 21, from Lancaster, NH; Kate Bonner-Jackson, 26, and Molly Adelstein, 26, both from Boston; Drew Wilson, 23, and Tim Clifford, 24 both from Worcester, MA; Sam Maron, 22 from Westchester, NY; and Paul McCarrier, 22,

from Portland, ME.

"The dismissal of our case proves that the vast majority of arrests in Saint Paul were unjustifiable and more focused on a government repression of dissent than providing security for the RNC," said Kate Bonner-Jackson, one of the defendants. "I came to protest the RNC because I am deeply concerned that our civil liberties are being gutted and I want to live in a world in which voicing criticism and dissent is not only acceptable, but a welcomed and integral part of a functioning and free society."

"For the past five months the City of Saint Paul has been defending the RNC arrests and wasting taxpayer money prosecuting charges that our case proves are baseless and politically motivated," said Paul McCarrier, one of



"By wearing masks and working together," St. Paul City Attorney John Choi told the Associated Press, "The protesters presented some evidentiary problems for prosecutors." *Photo submitted by the STAAC 7.*

the defendants. "The dismissal of our charges sets an important precedent for upcoming trials stemming from arrests at the RNC, and we are newly passionate about continuing the struggle for a better world."

The City of St. Paul hoped to showcase

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the trial to legitimize the vast police presence and immense use of taxpayer money spent on training, equipment, and chemical weapons designated for security. Over 800 people were arrested in the streets during four days of the

convention. To date over 40% of the arrests reviewed by the City Attorney's office have been dismissed without formal charges even being filed. Jordan Kushner and Ken Tilsen, attorneys with the National Lawyers Guild, represented the defendants.

The Great Molasses Flood: 90 Year Anniversary

by Adrienne

You may have heard the punchline: 2.3 million gallons of molasses in waves 15-40 feet high traveling at 35 miles an hour flooded Boston's North End in January 1919. Untold numbers of horses, dogs and rats were smothered, 150 people were injured, 21 working people and children were killed while wooden houses, a brick fire station and the elevated rail were destroyed. Surreal, bizarre, humorous to many, the Boston Molasses Flood is among the less remembered disasters. The event is recalled by the infamous Boston Duck Tours, who even have a boat named Molly Molasses, while its site on Commercial Street is marked by nothing more than a small plaque in Langone Park.

Why on earth was there a giant molasses tank in a densely populated urban area? After all, this is back when the North End was home to Italian workers instead of Italian restaurants. With its geographic traits strategically advantageous for business, the United States Industrial Alcohol company chose a waterfront location in the North End to construct its 50 foot high molasses tank in December 1915. The War to End All Wars was raging overseas and the war machine demanded the distillation of molasses into munitions to fight it. With hard deadlines in place, zoning restrictions and safety regulations were overlooked and bypassed to complete the tank in a hurry. For the next three years, the tank would groan and leak epic amounts of molasses. Dire warnings from USIA's employees went unheeded, retaliatory actions were threatened for the issuers of such warnings, and the tank was even painted brown to obscure the leaks rather than fix the problems. Thus was the tank explosion an

entirely preventable disaster.

As our readers will surely find interesting, in the court battle that followed, USIA unsuccessfully blamed the explosion not on its own malefactions, but on anarchists. Militant labor radicals had, after all, been targeting various components of the war machine worldwide. Regrettably, the only book-length treatment of the subject of the molasses flood is *Dark Tide*, from Beacon Press in 2003, written by a newspaper journalist, rather than a trained historian. Stephen Puleo's research on radicalism can most gently be described as sloppy. A representative example of his shoddy grasp on radicalism: he's convinced that IWW

stands for *International Workers of the World*, a devastatingly embarrassing mistake he repeats in *The Boston Italians*, published four years later. While decontextualizing, distorting, omitting and not looking hard enough for readily available information on anarchists and anarchism, Puleo emulates a fictional narrative replete with heroes and



Photo depicting the aftermath of the molasses flood. Photo by Leslie Jones.

villains. I needn't tell you that anarchists are his villains, whose motives and actions are not given anywhere near the same consideration as those of his other characters.

Having just passed the 90th anniversary of this catastrophe, I can't help but wonder if there's a lesson to be learned in allowing potentially cataclysmic and heavily under-regulated projects driven by militarism and greed to be erected in our densely populated urban areas. *cough, BU Biolab, cough* Hmm ...

Anyway, pick up *Dark Tide*, but read it with a critical eye, as you surely read all things. Don't forget to laugh your ass off on page 233 where Puleo writes, 'With a few isolated exceptions, the anarchist movement ... died with [Sacco and Vanzetti].'

The BAAM Newsletter

is the monthly publication of the Boston Anti-Authoritarian Movement, a general union of Boston anarchists. Our publication aims to spread anti-authoritarian ideas and practices, and to report on the social struggles of workers, tenants, students, radicals, and others resisting the repression of the state, bosses, landlords and banks.

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A Preventable Accident: Brake Failure Kills Boston Firefighter

by Jake Carman

On January 9, 2009, the Boston Fire Department's Ladder 26 experienced brake failure, causing it to race down Parker Hill Ave. on Mission Hill. The crew, unable to stop their truck, threw on the sirens as they sped into the intersection of Huntington Avenue, plowed over a brick wall and then crashed into a high-rise apartment building. Lt. Kevin M. Kelley, 52, who was riding in the passenger's seat, was killed on impact. Another firefighter suffered a broken leg, two more were slightly injured, and 6 children inside the building were hurt by shattered glass. Lt. Kelley had been in the department for 30 years, and leaves behind a wife and three kids.

As Clara Hendricks, who witnessed the accident on her way home from work, told the BAAM Newsletter: "It happened in seconds. I heard a loud siren coming. I thought the truck must have some really great turning mechanism if it's coming down the hill so fast. Then it dawned on me that it wasn't going to turn." Hendricks, who herself narrowly avoided being hit by the Ladder truck, was one of the few witnesses to the destruction. "It crashed through two cars parked on the other side of Huntington, smashed through a brick wall and then into an apartment building," she said. "Only a third of the truck was sticking out of the building. Water was billowing out of the top. People were screaming. It was horrifying. If any car, pedestrian or train had been hit, the impact would have been devastating."

Thousands of Firefighters from as far as New York and Maine attended Kelley's funeral on January 14th. Speakers recalled Kelley's bravery and dedication. As District Fire Chief Charles Mitchell said in his friend's eulogy, "I knew that Kevin had his thumb on that horn, trying to send out whatever warning he could to those down below." Others, like Edward A. Kelly, International Association of Fire Fighters Local 718 president, remembered his humor and jokes around the firehouse, claiming Lt. Kevin Kelley had "a master's degree in busting chops."

A review board that the Fire Department put together, along with police investigators, determined that brake failure caused the accident. The board, which will make suggestions on how to prevent future incidents, includes "fewer than 10," Fire Department spokesman Steve MacDonald told the Boston Herald. Just two board members were named publicly, Deputy Fire Chief Robert J. Calobrisi, and the only non-Firefighters' union member of the board, Deputy Chief of Labor and Management Karen Glasgow. No other names have been released, according to MacDonald, because the Department is "worried if who's

on duty than ambulances and that there are more fire stations than EMS stations, often arrive before the EMS ambulances. In fact, Lt. Kevin Kelley and Ladder 26 arrived at the scene four minutes before ambulances did on the January 9, during the Mission Hill medical call that would be Kelley's last. In emergency situations, minutes, and even seconds, count, said the union. Furthermore, as Keith O'Brien wrote in his January 23rd article for the Globe, "Fire Department and EMS officials say that you never know what you might find at a scene, justifying the need for both agencies to race out on calls."

The bigger issue is the condition of Boston's fire trucks. Currently, according to John C. Drake and Donovan Slack's January 21 article for the *Boston Globe*, the Boston Fire Department's maintenance crew includes just

"12 uniformed firefighters who rotate tires and fix broken lights, among other duties, but they are not licensed mechanics." After Kelley's death, Mayor Menino agreed to hire licensed mechanics, but instead of hiring from the union or allowing the new mechanics to join the union, he's tried to shift the responsibility to non-union workers and even rejected Local 718's proposal to couple the move with the hiring of 24 additional union firefighters. Menino's insistence on non-union help is most likely because the city would have to give union workers better wages and benefits than non-union workers.

Regardless of the cost of union mechanics,

trucks like Ladder 26—which hadn't been serviced for 10 months, though the manufacturers recommend servicing the vehicles every 3 months—are sorely under maintained, putting firefighters, who already risk life and limb to rush to the rescue of Boston's residents, in unnecessary and unjust danger. "Mechanics were done away with on this job a long time ago and were never replaced," said Local 718 president Edward Kelly. "We'll welcome those mechanics to our union, and we welcome them to our department, because our fleet is in deplorable condition."



A Boston fire truck loses control, killing Lt. Kevin M. Kelley, one of Boston's oldest firefighters who leaves behind a wife and three children. Photo by George Rizer, *Boston Globe*.

on the board is in the paper, they're going to be getting calls from the media."

Kelley's death has brought two debates back into the public realm: whether or not firefighters should respond to medical (non-fire) emergencies, and how to solve the shortage of mechanics in the Department.

City Councilor at Large Sam Yoon, chairman of the Postaudit and Oversight Committee, told the Boston Globe, "Sending a ladder truck, as well as two sets of first responders, to answer routine medical calls seems like an inefficiency we can't afford." Local 718 representatives, however, pointed out that most firefighters are certified EMTs and that fire trucks, due to the fact that there are generally more than twice as many of them

Anti-Zionist Protest at Israeli Consulate

by Sublett

On January 16, a march and a rally were held to protest the ongoing genocide by Israel in the Gaza Strip. Approximately 300 people gathered in front of 20 Park Plaza, home of the Israeli consulate, to express their outrage and revulsion at Israel's massacre of the Palestinian people.

For over three weeks, the Israel "Defense" Force deployed advanced military weapons against a strangled civilian population while blockading Gaza against any relief or escape. White phosphorus and experimental high-density explosives, as well as conventional missiles, bombs and artillery have been used on one of the most densely populated cities in the world in defiance of the Geneva Convention, international treaties and basic morality.

The result has been a humanitarian crisis. Hospitals are overflowing with wounded, many of them with horrible, untreatable burns from white phosphorus. Starvation and malnutrition are rampant. This 22 day siege finally came to an end when Israel stopped bombing on the 18th and withdrew forces on the 20th, leaving 1,330 palestinians dead (65% of which were civilians and

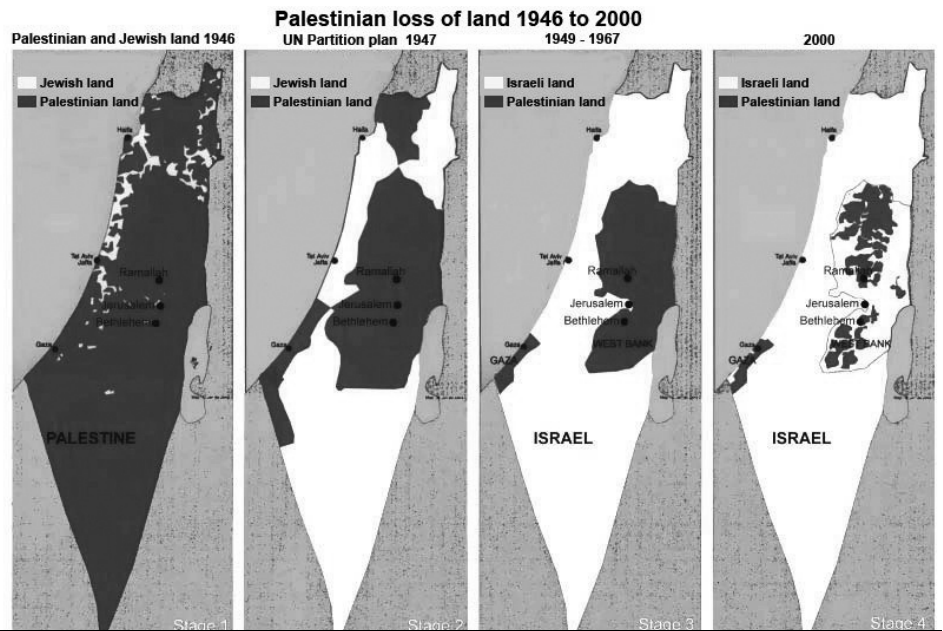
437 of which were children), 5,450 wounded and 100,000 displaced or homeless.

The Boston protest on the 16th followed the usual pattern of rally-speeches-march. After nearly an hour of marching up and down the sidewalk chanting and holding signs, the microphone was handed to the people. Despite the fact that the crowd was made up almost entirely of liberals and socialists, the Zionists inside did not dare to come out and confront it. Instead, a pair of offensive notes came fluttering down from above telling protesters to "go back where they came from." One Palestinian woman took the microphone to reply that she would love to do just that, if only Israel wasn't occupying her home. Another speaker suggested that the Zionists should return to their own countries of origin. After the people spoke, everyone marched to the State



There were three major protests in Boston in response to the Gaza massacre: Jan 16, Dec 30, and a funeral procession (above) on Jan 10.

Photo by David Van Horn.



Map showing timeline of Israeli land grab. From Qawen Coalition website.

House, keeping carefully to the sidewalk, to protest Governor Deval Patrick's appearance at a pro-Israel event. From there it was on to the JFK Federal Building for more chanting and speeches.

Protests across the Atlantic have been hundreds of times larger and far less peaceful than in Boston. Hundreds of thousands have taken to the streets of Athens, Madrid and London, among other cities, to demand that Israel withdraw from Gaza. In England, protesters vandalized an arms factory in Brighton that makes parts for

Israeli missiles. In Greece, the government refused permission for an arms shipment destined for Israel to use the port of Astakos for fear of reigniting the anarchist-driven insurgency that erupted in December.

Meanwhile in Boston, the protest on January 16 attracted only 15 police on bicycles, with another ten or so in cars, and on foot directing traffic. Even this was excessive.. Media attention was similarly muted, with only a single camera from a local TV station, and no mention in the next day's papers. No one was arrested. This depressing trend will surely continue until local activists find the courage to do more than carry signs and march on the sidewalk. Remember, it's not civil disobedience if you do everything they tell you.

Gaza, Greece, and the Meaning of Solidarity

by Noah Cohen

As news came out recently that the "United States" would be sending a new shipment of bombs to "Israel" from the Greek port of Astakos at some point between the middle and end of January, the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) sent out an urgent call to organizers in Greece to stop the shipment. Within a day, several organizations and individuals in Greece responded to the call. Perhaps most significant in the current context was that of the Greek Anti-Authoritarian Movement, centrally involved in weeks of rebel-

lion against the repressive forces of their own government:

"The Anti-Authoritarian Movement calls for a Pan-Hellenic gathering on Thursday, Jan. 15th at Astakos at 1:00 p.m. to block the departure of boats with American weapons which are destined for Israel. DON'T LET THE CARGO OF AMERICAN WEAPONS LEAVE THE PORT. SOLIDARITY WITH THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE. RESISTANCE TO GLOBALIZED STATE TERRORISM." -Anti-Authoritarian Movement

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Greece Defies US and Stops Israeli Arms

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As pressure began from below, even members of the parliamentary left began to raise questions. On January 12th, the “US” announced that it had canceled the shipment of arms through Astakos because of “concerns” expressed by the Greek government.

The prefect of Aitolokarnania (where the port lies) announced that they would instead be sending a ship with material aid to Palestinians and expressed the sentiments of the local people: “The people of Aitolokarnania do not accept that Greek ports, and especially this port of Platygiali, constitute places for the transfer of weapons and ammunition which are used in belligerent circumstances and in the slaughter of the peoples of our region. ... we are sending medicines and medical material instead of weapons [to Israel] to the besieged people of Gaza...”

Resistance to Globalized State Terrorism

“Resistance to globalized state terrorism” is a call that relates the rebellion of youth and anti-authoritarians in Greece over the last several weeks to the slaughter of people in Gaza. Their opposition moves beyond the usual limits of “solidarity:” stopping a “US” arms shipment to “Israel” becomes a part of their own struggle.

State terrorism is globalized. The “US,” Greece and “Israel” collaborate not just against Palestinians, but against Greeks. It was the “US” that set up Greece’s repressive police structures: the MAT (Monades Apokatastis Taxis)—“riot” police—are a special branch of political police that have their origins in “US” police training programs. Through the “Public Safety Program” in the 1960s and 1970s, the “US” supplied Greece with weapons and trained police in methods of repression—including torture—as part of the global “war against communism.” Just before Christmas 2008, it was revealed that “Israel” was supplying Greece with a new, harsher form of teargas to use against demonstrators. Protestors have described it as “asphyxiating.”

People in rebellion find their solidarity in a struggle against injustice which they have experienced directly. It is solidarity in resistance.

One can see this when reading the statement of high school students from the Coordinated Struggle of High-Schools in Athens, who chose to reorganize their national mobilization on education rights in Greece on January 9 into a mobilization for solidarity with Gaza: “...Everyone must take a position:—either with the victim or the executioner—either with the Palestinians or with their murderers—either with the peoples who fight or with the imperialists....We are on the side of our student comrades in Palestine who have been murdered over these last days by Israeli fire. Victory to the Palestinian people!”

Fighting Zionism

The ties are concrete that link the police murder of Alexis Grigoropoulos in Greece, the murder of Oscar Grant in Oakland, and the genocidal Zionist assault on Gaza. The central role of the “US” and “Israel” in developing a global system of police repression has everything to do with their common history

nies. The Algerian settlers became the most fascistic bloc of political power within France and threatened to seize control of the country and impose a military dictatorship as France began to back away from its colony.

Wherever the “pioneering frontier” is most active, so also is the development of genocidal repressive power. The “US” contracts Zionist mercenaries and companies to develop its own domestic security state. Elbit Systems—the “Israeli” company that designed and built the wall that is intended to starve communities in Palestine—was contracted to develop the “US” border wall with Mexico and flight security systems in airlines. Instinctive Shooting International—now renamed Security Systems International—provided “Israeli” mercenaries for “security” in New Orleans in the aftermath of Katrina, and now regularly organizes trainings in “Israel” for “US” police and Homeland Security. Repression is now “Israel’s” most important global industry—all it really has to export.

The failure to confront Zionism as ideology and as material power is a failure to confront a bloc of repressive, white-supremacist power within our own society. This has been a major weak point of social justice, anti-racist and anti-war organizing. To take the most obvious example, the strength of Zionism within labor unions has been a major force for turning them into pro-imperialist institutions.

Solidarity

The Greeks have understood that solidarity means recognizing the concrete points of intersection where the fight becomes serious.

The “US” is dead center in the system of genocide and global repression. The physical apparatus is here in every major city and across the country in small towns: munitions factories, military bases, recruiting centers. Virtually every major university has its research institutions develop instruments of mass murder, and its theoretical institutes develop strategies of repressive power.

But this extensiveness is also its weakness. The main strategy of security is depoliticization: there is simply no way to defend so many nodes of violence from a movement that is serious about interfering with them.

The Greeks have given a small example of what such a movement might look like. Let’s stop the flow of weapons at the source.



Members of the Greek Anti-Authoritarian Movement and KNE (Youth Communist Party) help blockade the port of Astakos on January 19. Photo from www.rizospastis.gr/

as colonial settler-states. As Cesaire Aime, Frantz Fanon and others have written, it is in the colonies that the methods, apparatus, and ideology of fascism developed. Concentration camps, special laws that exploit whole populations based on “race,” and the systematic annihilation of peoples: Europe did this to Africa, the Arab world, and the Americas before turning to the interior. It’s in the settler colonies that whole new classes emerge whose livelihoods depend on repression: the various military and paramilitary formations of the settler garrison become the police, mercenaries and prison guards of the totalitarian state. Germany, Italy and Spain recruited their own most repressive forces from the colo-

Qawem Coalition



قاوم

The Boston Anti-Authoritarian Movement has joined the newly founded Qawem Coalition, and thus we republish here the Coalition's statement on Israel's recent assault on Gaza:

The recent massacres in Gaza demonstrate the zionists' capacity for violence. They also reveal their fear and weakness in the face of Palestinian armed resistance. Still humiliated by their defeat by Hizballah in Lebanon in 2006, they have chosen to inflict massive casualties on easy targets. The deliberate bombing of schools stands out among the atrocities, which now include the bombing of mosques, hospitals, ambulances, universities and all other forms of civilian infrastructure. Because the assault comes after a regime of mass starvation—with people forced to eat animal feed in the months before the military attack—we can predict that the secondary casualties from lack of food, clean water and medicine will dwarf even the staggering numbers from the attack itself.

The current attack can only be seen as the culmination of a deliberate plan to starve and kill the people of Gaza. The portrayal of Zionist actions in corporate media as "retaliatory" and Palestinian resistance as "provocation" falsifies the nature and history of the zionist state. "Israel" is a colonial settler state founded on the racist ideology of zionism. It has followed the expansionist and genocidal logic of white supremacist, settler-colonialism for over 60 years: its aim is to completely eradicate the indigenous population—either by "transfer" or by total annihilation.

Historically, the only force that has stood between the zionists and the completion of this goal has been the armed resistance. It was the armed resistance of Palestinians in the 1930s that first forced the British to reconsider their goal of establishing a zionist state in Palestine. Armed resistance forced Ariel Sharon to scrap his plan in 2000 of bringing a million new settlers into the West Bank. Armed resistance drove Israel out of South Lebanon, and forced 5,000 settlers out of Gaza.

In the absence of armed resistance, zionist expansion has continued unhindered and without international attention—as in the case of the Naqab, where Bedouins have been driven from their traditional lands. As the collaborationist Palestinian Authority increasingly tightens its repression against resistance forces in the West Bank, settler atrocities against Palestinians—aimed at driving them from their land—now escalate unchecked.

Rockets fired from Gaza on settlements in '48 occupied Palestine (e.g. Sderot, Ashkelon) are not mere acts of symbolism: they have defeated the capacity of the zionist state to offer settlers "security." Since "security" is now the main promise that the state holds out to its settler population, this defeat is quite significant. It has prevented the zionists from achieving their "demographic" goals: deluging Palestine with fresh new waves of colonial invaders.

We recognize that Palestinian resistance follows in the tradition of many other indigenous peoples who have had to survive and defend themselves against colonialism. First Nations peoples in the Americas, enslaved Africans in the United States, Canada, the Caribbean, Latin and South America, the Zapatistas in Mexico, the Herero in Namibia, the Mau Mau in Kenya, Aborigines in Australia, Arabs in Iraq, and the Macheteros in Puerto Rico have all had to, and continue to, defend themselves against white supremacist violence and land theft.

All in the international community who support the Palestinian people in their fight against Zionist oppression must also support their struggle against the colonization of their land. This means supporting not just the right to resist, but the resistance itself—recognizing both its legitimacy and its viability.

The resistance has issued statements asking all supporters worldwide to state their support for the legitimacy of the Palestinian resistance and recognize it as the sole alternative for Palestinian liberation. This was their only request.

We, the undersigned, answer this call:

- 1. We reject zionism as a white supremacist colonial ideology.*
- 2. We recognize the legitimacy of the Palestinian resistance as an expression of the will of the Palestinian people. This includes the right to decolonize all of historic Palestine by any means necessary.*
- 3. We support the Palestinian resistance and acknowledge that it is the sole legitimate alternative in the fight for Palestinian liberation.*

LONG LIVE THE PALESTINIAN RESISTANCE!

-Qawem Coalition <http://qawemcoalition.org/>

Northampton Resists Anti-Panhandling Law

by David Beyer

Since its proposal by Northampton City Council, anti-panhandling Ordinance 285-53 has seen a wide spectrum of public opposition—with resistance from the homeless, from business owners, street performers, students, and other community members. This ordinance would, in addition to adding civil penalties to the existent criminal punishments for “aggressive solicitation,” enforce a number of restrictions on asking for money, banning it in many downtown areas with high foot traffic.

It would prohibit anyone from asking for money while sitting, on the sidewalk, on public benches, using crates, under overpasses, or fifteen feet away from too many locations to count—banks, bus stops, and patios, just to name a few. In other words, Northampton City Council’s response to unmet needs and the homelessness crisis is to push the victims of capitalism out of sight and out of mind by silencing them, rather than addressing the causes of poverty and homelessness.

This ordinance, unconstitutional under the First Amendment, would effectively criminalize a necessary lifeline for Northampton’s low income and homeless. These populations already suffer from a lack of adequate housing, shelters with often draconian rules and month-long waiting lists, and a lack of regular meals. Anyone who does not obey Ordinance 285-53 would face fines ranging from \$50 to \$300. Since most panhandlers could not pay these fines, they would be entered into the Criminal Offender Record Information database. This would make them ineligible for vital social services, and give them jail time or subject them to “alternative treatments.”

This type of ordinance is far from an isolated case. Atlanta, Cleveland, Pittsburgh, and Chicago have enacted similar anti-poor ordinances with nearly identical methods and language. These laws, which small towns and cities are increasingly adopting, aim to “cleanse” the streets of people in need. They form part of a larger program of violent gentrification to increase tourism and luxury sales profits.

To see how this will be accomplished (besides rising rent costs and foreclosure rates), one need not look further than Northampton mayor Clare Higgins, who has eloquently declared, “we might have to [move people along in the streets] if they’re in the wrong place.”

In Northampton, as in many cities and towns throughout the world, gentrification includes the formation of a Business Improvement District, or a collusion of businesses that practice urban renewal by privatizing once-public spaces, hiring off-duty cops to patrol

the streets, and turning once-vibrant communities into shopping centers. This process also includes the use of government-corporate “solutions to homelessness” that build afford-

able housing projects in far-away host towns fit for profit, but not for people.

We responded to these problems by creating Poverty Is Not a Crime, a group of the currently or formerly homeless and their allies dedicated to organizing against this ordinance and against gentrification, while demanding much-overdue community resources such as food, shelter, and social services. We started with a series of four demonstrations that increased in size to about one hundred people. These demonstrations were carried out in tandem with a public awareness campaign and a petition of 278 area residents against the ordinance.

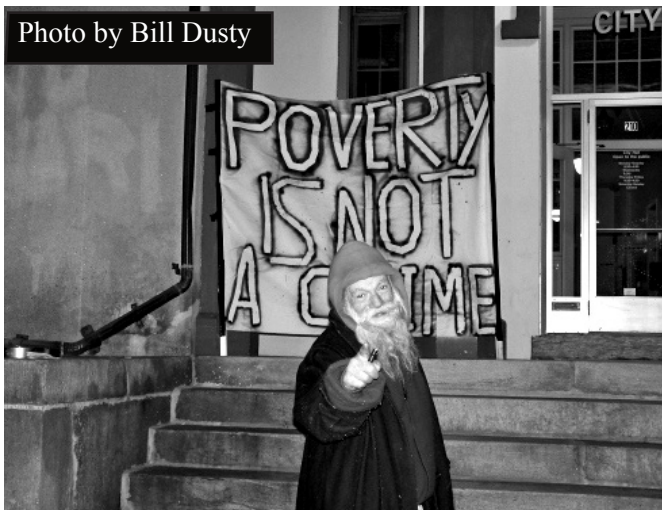
Some of our demonstrations have combined resistance with celebration, where demonstrators eat Food Not Bombs-supplied hot food and march through the streets with pots, pans, trumpets, and cardboard signs, with chants such as “the people, united, won’t let this ordinance pass!” Another demonstration included a silent corridor of people in front of City Hall for Councilors to walk through and a vigil for a homeless man who froze to death a day after being kicked out of a shelter. “This man gave up on life,” said Ira McKinley, a homeless community organizer, “this is what poverty does.”

Despite the cancellation of the Public Safety subcommittee meeting where this anti-home-

less ordinance was to be discussed, around twenty-five people attended the most recent demonstration on January 6th. On this day, we also began a boycott against the Gazebo, a lingerie store owned by the mouthpiece of this ordinance, who is now infamous for her statements in full support of gentrification. We expect that due to public action,

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Photo by Bill Dusty



Fundraiser for Prison Birth Project a Success

by Clara Hendricks

On the bitter cold night of January 17, about 50 people gathered at the Community Church of Boston to eat, drink, dance, and raise money for a new group based in Western Massachusetts called The Prison Birth Project (PBP). The benefit, sponsored by the Boston union of the North Eastern Federation of Anarcho-Communists (NEFAC), raised 700 dollars for the PBP and occurred the weekend of the NEFAC Strategy Conference.

The Prison Birth Project works primarily in the women’s prison in Chicopee, MA providing doula care to pregnant inmates. However, they have a broader goal of expanding the movement for reproductive justice to actively include incarcerated people. They say in their literature that “reproductive oppression is the result of the intersection of multiple social, economic and political injustices and is inherently connected to the struggle for social justice and human rights.” As anarchists, reproductive justice needs to be part of our social justice framework, and groups such as the Prison Birth Project are taking the next step to make this a reality.

The next public event for the Prison Birth Project will be in Northampton on February 28. For more information about the project, please contact thepersonbirthproject@gmail.com. Website coming soon: ThePrisonBirthProject.org

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the ordinance will, in its next draft, be tuned down to one that prohibits blocking sidewalks. Though this may be a victory, such an ordinance may still pose a threat if designed and enforced with the motive of hiding those with needs.

Groups that partake in the struggle for the rights of homeless people are movements such as Food Not Bombs and Homes Not Jails, which strive to provide desperately needed food and shelter in a not-for-profit, participatory way. Because ultimately, the solution to poverty will not be the fat, lounging frog statue collecting charity donations that our local government set up in the central square, but autonomous organization and rebellion against the deprivations of the highly unequal and unjust system we live under.

Confluence Follow Up

by Jeff Reinhardt

On the night of January 17, activists from all across the city of Boston met at a follow up meeting to last summer's Northeast climate confluence held at the new home of the Boston Workers Alliance (BWA) on Blue Hill Avenue. This mini-confluence was a networking meeting for activists, and while it had no concrete goals it allowed members of various groups to tell their story and the purposes of their groups. Rising Tide Boston, the BWA, and the New England Committee to Defend Palestine (NECDP) helped organize the event.

The most remarkable thing about this event was the broad range of topics that were brought to the table and the wide variety of people present. It put working class Dorchester natives alongside university students, high schoolers with longtime community organizers, and people with little or no activist experience with individuals who have dedicated the greater part of their lives to social justice.

This was the first follow-up meeting for the Northeast Climate Confluence, which was held in High Falls, New York last summer to kick-start an activist-based disaster response network and fight the causes of global warming. As the confluence came to a close, attendees thought it would be helpful to have follow-up meetings in regional vicinities to further foster connections between groups.

These meetings were originally intended to happen every month, but it took awhile for it to materialize. Still, there are plans now for monthly meetings and BAAM has volunteered to host the next follow-up some time in February. We don't have an exact date or time yet, but check baamboston.org or Boston's Indymedia page (boston.indymedia.org)

Two Upcoming Spring Actions

by Sublett

IMF/World Bank Meeting, 4/25 - 4/26 - On April 25 and 26 the International Monetary Fund and World Bank will hold their spring meeting in Washington, DC. This is a golden opportunity for anarchists, anti-capitalists, foes of globalization and opponents of corporate bailouts to gather and make their presence felt. As the US economy collapses, the government's response highlights the hypocrisy inherent in globalization. By pouring billions of dollars into bankrupt financial institutions, they are taking the exact opposite course to that imposed by the IMF on poor countries in financial trouble. Instead of the austerity measures forced down the throats of nations such as South Africa, the US is going on a borrowing binge to prop up wealthy bankers while continuing to dump trillions into the twin genocides of Iraq and Afghanistan. At home, foreclosures are skyrocketing and jobs are being eliminated. In the Third World food prices are rising rapidly due to the decline of the dollar and manufacturing jobs are disappearing because of reduced demand from the US. The globalization of capital ensures that economic misery strikes everywhere at once.

A group called the Self Described Anarchist Collective, in conjunction with a DC-based group called Global Justice Action, is organizing resistance to the spring meeting. Planning is still in the early stages, but keep an eye on www.selfdescribed.org for emerging details.

Disrupt the Lake City Army Ammunition Plant, June 4- 8. The occupations of Afghanistan and Iraq continue to take a brutal toll on the inhabitants of those countries. In the US, the anti-war movement has degenerated into a formulaic exercise in sign-waving futility, even as the wars have grown less and less popular. A group called Disrupt Lake City (DLC) has a better idea. As part of their campaign to "Stop the War at the Point of Production", DLC is organizing a blockade of the Lake City Army Ammunition Plant in Independence, Missouri to take place June 4 through 8.

This plant makes about 90% of the small arms ammunition used by the US military.

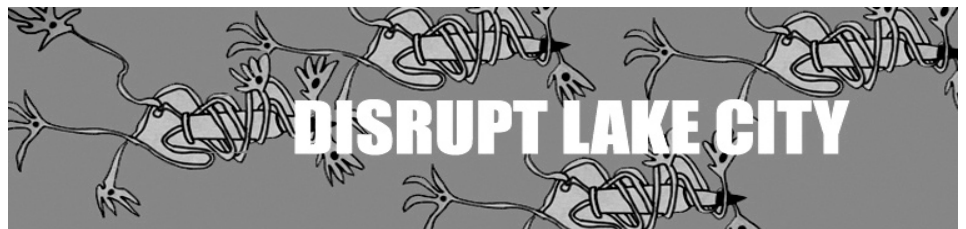


IMF Protest in Prague

Their proposed strategy draws heavily from the Republican National Convention in St. Paul, MN. As in St. Paul, there are three tiers, ordered by importance. Tier 1 is the lone rail line leading out of the plant, tier 2 is the entrances to the plant and tier 3 is the surrounding roads. The area around the plant is divided into three sectors, with sector 3 being considered as a space for less confrontational tactics. From DLC's pamphlet: "If you are interested in being part of this action and need information to form an affinity group with the intention of tackling a certain sector contact the disruption crew and we will get you all the info you need. The disruption crew will be coordinating all committed affinity groups and providing them with support on the ground."

Dave Strano of DLC held a presentation at Encuentro 5 in December. A reportback from that event can be found at www.baamboston.org/archives/232.

Check www.stoplakecity.org for updates. Questions can be emailed to unconventionals@gmail.com. Cash or whatever else can be sent to Disrupt Lake City, PO Box 277, Lawrence KS, 66044



CALENDAR: GET INVOLVED

Every Monday:

Papercut Zine Library meeting, 7:30pm, 45 Mt. Auburn St., Cambridge

First Tuesday of Every Month:

BAAM meeting, 7pm, Lucy Parsons Center, 549 Columbus Ave, Boston

Second Tuesday of Every Month: Anarchist Black Cross meeting (defense and prison abolition group), 8pm, 45 Mt. Auburn St., Cambridge

Every Wednesday: Free Radical Film Nights at the Lucy Parsons Center, 7pm, Lucy Parsons Center, 549 Columbus Ave, Boston

First and Third Sunday of Every Month: Rising Tide Boston meeting. 5:30pm @ The Lucy Parsons Center 549 Columbus Ave, Boston

Second Sunday of Every Month:

Industrial Workers of the World meeting. 2pm, Lucy Parsons Center, 549 Columbus Ave, Boston

Every Friday:

Food Not Bombs free community meal, 4-6pm, Boston Common, near the Park St T-Stop, Boston

January 30:

El Salvador Turning Left

6pm, Encuentro 5, 33 Harrison Ave, 5th Floor.

Reportback on El Salvador's Legislative & Local Elections

Boston, MA (near Chinatown or Boylston St. T) Just returned from the excitement of El Salvador's January 18th legislative and local elections, CISPES representative Lisa Fuller will report on the election results, the grassroots social struggle and the prospects for the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN in Spanish) to win the Presidential elections in March. There will be refreshments and a discussion of the questions: How will the Salvadoran right-wing respond to an FMLN victory? What will be the Obama administration's stance toward an FMLN government? What does an FMLN presidency mean for free trade and CAFTA in El Salvador? Contact Boston CISPES 617.576.1709 boscispes@speakeasy.net

January 31:

Really Really Free Market, 11am-4pm at the International Community Church, 557 Cambridge St, Allston, MA 02134.

A lesson in anarchist economics: a market without money, but this is not trading. Bring stuff to contribute if you'd like, or just take stuff. Everything except furniture is welcome. Myspace.com/DefendAllstonBrighton

Benefit open mic for TJs Pizza. 8pm. Open mic to benefit TJ's, our beloved vegan pizza workers' collective at Eliconia house in Allston. Bring your poems, visual art, dramatic pieces, songs, dances, stories, jokes, impressions, and musical instruments to Eliconia, and show us whatcha got! Email otter.de.eliconia@gmail.com for the address.

February 5:

Republic Windows and Doors Victory Tour. 6:30pm - 9pm. 150 Mount Vernon St., Dorchester, MA. Come hear from the workers whose recent sit-down strike against the boss and the bank saved their severance packages. This will be a community forum with some of the sit-in strikers from Republic Windows & Doors in Chicago.



Over 9,000 Greek farmers have blockaded the border of Bulgaria since January 18th, protesting for subsidies and other relief from the failing capitalist system.

CALENDAR: GET INVOLVED

February 14:

National Break up with Bank of America on Valentine's Day: Mass day of account closures. 9am – 5pm. Field's Corner, 1440 Dorchester Ave, and Copley Square, 699 Boylston St. Stop all foreclosures and evictions! Stop financing coal and climate change! We'll have statements for people to give to the bank stating why they are closing their accounts. People concentrated at these two sites will create a bigger spectacle. For more information, visit RisingTideBoston.org

February 15:

Bikes Not Bombs Dance Party Fundraiser at the Milky Way Lounge and Lanes, 8pm. DJs Patrick & Stella of Gross Anatomy, DJ D'Hana of The Neighborhood, DJ Lone-wolf of Todo Mundo. \$5-20+ sliding scale. <http://www.milkywayjp.com> for directions.

February 17:

Noam Chomsky and Anarchists Against the Wall speaking event. 7pm at the Unitarian Church, 3 Church St., Cambridge, MA. Noam Chomsky and Anarchists Against the Wall—an Israeli anarchist group involved in inspiring Palestinian solidarity work—will speak about the massacre in Gaza and other Palestinian issues.

March 21:

The 6th anniversary of the Iraq invasion. Various actions will be held in Boston, BWashington, DC and around the country.

April 11

Third annual New York City Anarchist Bookfair. A one-day exposition of books, zines, pamphlets, art, film/video and other cultural and very political productions of the anarchist scene worldwide, at Judson Memorial Church in Manhattan. To contact the NYC Anarchist Book Fair Organizing Collective to volunteer, make a donation or get more information, e-mail us at info@anarchistbookfair.net. www.anarchistbookfair.net/

April 18

F.A.D.G.E. Fest! FADGE (or Feminism, Autonomy, Diversity and Gender Expression) is a female-positive day of workshops, art and music. This year's festival focuses on the female as a whole person, body and mind. Workshops will cover diverse topics such as self-defense, art therapy, sexual violence and body image. There will be live music throughout the day as well as art vendors. This event is for all ages and genders. Your \$10 donation will benefit a local women's shelter. Noon - 11:00pm at the Charter Oak Cultural Center in Hartford, Conn. For more information please visit www.myspace.com/fadgefest or write *ctentfest@gmail.com*

April 25 and 26

IMF/World Bank Meeting, Washington D.C. Details TBA, but save the date.

May 16 and 17

Montreal's 10th Annual Anarchist Bookfair at the CEDA, 2515 Delisle, a short walk from Lionel-Groulx metro). Part of the month-long Festival of Anarchy, throughout the month of May 2009 at venues and locations all over the island of Montreal. The Montreal Anarchist Bookfair – and month-long Festival of Anarchy – brings together anarchist ideas and practice, through words, images, music, theater and day-to-day struggles for justice, dignity and collective liberation. The bookfair is as much for people who don't necessarily consider themselves anarchists but are curious about anarchism, as it is a space for anarchists to meet, network and share in a spirit of respect and solidarity. All are welcome. The bookfair principles are linked here: <http://www.anarchistbookfair.ca/en/node/4>



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What is Anarchism?

Anarchism is the theory and practice of a human society organizing without hierarchy, authority and oppression. This means that all people have equal access to the decision-making process and to the products of their collective labor. Anarchy can be described as true, direct democracy. It is horizontal: i.e. workers working together without bosses, neighbors organizing housing and neighborhoods without landlords, and people making decisions without politicians. There are many different ideas on how to get there and what exactly it will look like. We can talk all we want, but only a truly free and revolutionary people will be able to decide what their revolution will look like. So comrades, let's get to work!

WWW.BAAMBOSTON.ORG